(c) The quantity of gold imported by India during the last five years is as follows:

Year	Quantity in tonnes
1998-1999	538.87
1999-2000	558.91
2000-2001	583.72
2001-2002*	496.93
2002-2003 (upto December 2002)*	377.94

*The figures are provisional.

Electrification of villages from solar energy in Himachal Pradesh

846. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) number of villages in Himachal Pradesh that have been electrified with the help of solar energy cells during the last three years;

(b) what is the potential of electricity connection using solar energy in the State; and

(c) how much funds have been allotted to Himachal Pradesh under the Solar Village Electrification Scheme during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) The Government is implementing a programme for the electrification of villages in the remote and difficult areas of the country. Under this programme, renewable energy systems like solar Photo Voltaic Systems, small hydro units and biomass gasifiers are installed in unelectrified villages to provide lighting and other services. Almost all census villages in the State of Himachal Pradesh are already electrified by conventional means. No village in Himachal Pradesh has been electrified through solar energy during the last three years and hence, no fund was released during last three years for this purpose.

A potential of 150 KW has been estimated by HIMURJA for installation of decentralised SPV systems in the remote areas of Himachal Pradesh

during next three years. The Government is also implementing a Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) programme, under which installation of solar lighting systems like solar home systems, street lighting systems and power plants is being supported. The SPV Programme is being implemented in Himachal Pradesh through the State renewable energy development agency HIMURJA. During the last three years, 5,000 solar home lighting systems, 650 street lighting systems and 5,000 solar lanterns, aggregating to 283kWp SPV capacity, were installed under this programme in the State. These systems were installed mostly in remote and unelectrified households/hamlets.

During the current year, the Government has allocated 3,000 solar home systems and 200 solar street lighting systems to HIMURJA for installation in the State under the Solar Photo Voltaic programme. Financial Assistance of Rs. 99.50 lakhs has also been released in advance towards these targets.

Bio-Mass farming on the Barren Land in Bihar

†847. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar have sent any plan to Central Government to start Bio-mass farming on the barren land; and

(b) if so, the details of the action being taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Government in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources have not received any plan from Government of Bihar to start biomass farming on barren land.

Setting up of wind power generation stations in Rajasthan

848. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up wind power generation stations in the State of Rajasthan during the Tenth Plan period;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.